MEMORANDUM

August 28, 1964

Init

To: Mr. Leo Rankin

From: W. David Slawson

Subject: Questioning of Marina Oswald by Senators Russell and Cooper and yourself

Yesterday in your office you suggested that if I had any particular areas in which I believed Marina should be questioned further that I summarize them in a memorandum to you. There are four such areas, as follows:

1. Oswald's job at the Radio Factory

Marina--nor anyone else for that matter--has never stated exactly what Oswald did in his job at the Minsk Radio Factory. The closest description given is Oswald's statement to the FBI on July 19, 1962 in which he said that he "read blueprints and translated them into the finished product." Given Oswald's history of lying to authorities, even this statement is highly questionable. I simply cannot believe that Marina lived with Oswald in Russia for a year and a half and does not have any idea what he did at the factory. The American public, I think, will be justifiably suspicious if she cannot come forward with some reasonably detailed description of what he did.

2. Oswald's activities in Moscow in 1959

Oswald's activities from the day he arrived in Moscow--October 16, 1959--to the day he was accepted for permanent residence and sent to Minsk--January 4, 1960--are known only through sources other than Marina. Even though she did not know Oswald during this time, this was probably one of the most important periods in Oswald's life, in his opinion, and I therefore believe that he must have talked about it with Marina during their marriage.

Here I am especially interested in what Oswald may have told her about the kind of questioning and/or examination he received at the hands of the Soviet authorities, his relationships with Rimma Shirakova and the other Intourist guides and what they may have done to help him, for example, language lessions, instructions on his conduct at the American Embassy, and even financial help.

Also--although this is a more technical matter which Marina may not have fully understood even if Oswald tried to explain it to her--I am interested in what Oswald was told throughout late October and November as to whether he could stay permanently in the Soviet Union even though he did not get full citizenship. His statements to newspaper reporters are inconsistent with his Historic Diary here. He told the reporters in November that he had been assured that he could stay. His Diary entries indicate that he was given no such assurance until January 4, 1960.

For your general review I have attached copies of the portions of Oswald's biography which cover this period.

3. Marina's 1961 "MVD" Interview

Marina has testified previously that at her own request she was given an interview with the MVD in November or December of 1961, to facilitate the obtaining of Soviet permission for her and Oswald to leave the country. Apparently the interview was with a "Colonel Asenov." It would be very interesting to get some detail on what questions she was asked and what answers she gave at this interview, exactly where it took place, who also was present, and how long it lasted. In addition, we might press her on whether the questioning concerned only herself or whether they questioned her about her husband as well.

4. Oswald's 1962 "MVD Interview

Just before the Oswalds' departure for the United States they visited Moscow to settle last-minute details with both the Soviet and American governments. Oswald told the FBI after he came back to the United States that he had been interviewed by the "MVD" only twice, once upon entering the country and once upon leaving. A letter (possibly a form letter) found among his effects indicates that the latter interview may have occurred while he and Marina were in Moscow just prior to their departure. A copy of that

letter is attached to this memorandum (CE 34). If Marina was present at this interview--or even if she was not, but Oswald told her about it later--I would like to have the same questions posed to her about this conference as were suggested in connection with her conference with "Colonel Asenov" in the previous paragraph.

Of course, if this "outgoing" MVD conference did not occur in Moscow as we think it did, we should find out where it did occur, and when, etc.

WDSlawson/smh

cc: Mr Willens
Mr. Slawson